

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Notice to Mariners is published by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), under the authority of Department of Defense Directive 5105.40, to advise mariners of important matters affecting navigational safety, including new hydrographic discoveries, changes in channels and navigational aids, etc. (U.S. Code Title 10, Sec. 442 and Title 44, Sec. 1336 refer). Nothing in the arrangement of information implies endorsement or acceptance by NGA in matters affecting the status and boundaries of States and territories. The Notice to Mariners presents corrective information affecting charts, NGA Hydrographic Products Catalog, Coast Pilots, Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides, USCG Light Lists, NGA List of Lights, Radio Navigational Aids and other products produced by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, National Ocean Service and U.S. Coast Guard.

Information for the Notice to Mariners is contributed by the following Agencies: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) (Department of Defense) for waters outside the territorial limits of the United States; National Ocean Service (NOS) (Department of Commerce), which is charged with the surveys and charting of the coasts and harbors of the United States and its territories; the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) (Department of Homeland Security), which is responsible for the safety of life at sea and the establishment and operation of aids to navigation; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Department of Defense), which is charged with the improvement of rivers and harbors of the United States. In addition, important contributions are made by foreign hydrographic offices and cooperating observers of all nationalities.

For further information concerning NGA hydrographic products and services, including the Maritime Safety Information Website, users may contact:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>DSN</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Maritime Safety Information Division	301-227-3370	287-3370	301-227-4211
World Wide Navigational Warning Service	301-227-3147	287-3147	301-227-3731
Fleet Liaison Officer	301-227-3120	287-3120	301-227-4211
Maritime Safety Information Website	301-227-3296	287-3296	301-227-4211
Notice to Mariners: Regions 1 and 2	301-227-3122	287-3122	301-227-3175
Notice to Mariners: Regions 3, 4, 5	301-227-3146	287-3146	301-227-3175
Notice to Mariners: Regions 6 thru 9	301-227-3146	287-3146	301-227-3175
Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides	301-227-3183	287-3183	301-227-3174
Navigation Science Publications	301-227-3120	287-3120	301-227-3731
Distribution Issues	301-227-7652	287-7652	301-227-4211

The Maritime Safety Information Website can be accessed directly at (<http://pollux.nss.nga.mil>). For your convenience NGA provides three e-mail addresses. For information affecting Notice to Mariners use NavNotices@nga.mil, for information affecting Sailing Directions and all other navigational publications use SDPUBS@nga.mil, for information concerning the Maritime Safety Information Website, use webmaster\_nss@nga.mil.

Mariners are requested to notify NGA of discrepancies in charts and publications, using the Marine Information Report and Suggestion Sheet at the back of this Notice to Mariners. This form should also be used to report permanent changes, additions, or deletions from charted or published information. Reports which constitute an immediate hazard to navigation should be sent to the nearest NAVAREA Coordinator via coast radio stations. All reports are greatly appreciated. Marine Information Report and Suggestion sheets received during the past week were submitted by the following observers:

<b>Observer</b>	<b>Ship/Organization</b>
Navigation Team	USS MOBILE BAY
Keith Stribley	M/V STRONG PATRIOT

**Cover Photo:** The **USS FORD (FFG-54)** is the forty-eighth ship of the *Oliver Hazard Perry* Class of guided missile frigates. Her mission is to provide in-depth anti-air, anti-surface and anti-subsurface protection for military and merchant shipping and to ensure continuous use of the sea lanes for the United States and her allies. The combat systems aboard utilize a computer command and control system to integrate the ships sensors and weapons. Her weapons include surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, a 76mm rapid fire gun, a close-in weapons system, anti-torpedoes and LAMPS MK III helicopter. The propulsion system is a computer controlled gas turbine power plant which utilizes jet engines. **FORD's** propulsion system can be "brought on line" in less than five minutes as compared to more than four hours for the conventional steam powered ships. Despite the advanced systems aboard, the heart of the ship is the crew. Each member has been highly trained in his particular area of expertise so that he can either operate, monitor or repair all shipboard systems. Skilled technicians and professional leadership make **USS FORD** a vital asset for the fleet in today's multi-threat environment.